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October 15, 2002

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.  
Director and Chief Medical Officer

**SUBJECT: BIOTERRORISM ACTION PLAN MONTHLY STATUS REPORT**

As requested by your Board, this is the monthly status report on activities related to the bioterrorism action plan.

All of the Federal grants, HRSA, CDC and MMRS grants, require regional planning and coordination as a major component of the County's grant objectives. The Public Health Division and the EMS Agency conducted the first Regional Bioterrorism Planning Meeting on September 25, 2002. The purpose of this meeting was to begin developing a regional plan with neighboring counties. In addition to Region 1 counties, Region 6 counties and Kern County was represented.

In follow-up, a regional list of key contacts as well as a list of pharmaceutical caches will be developed. A second meeting is planned for early 2003 with particular emphasis on the CDC grant Focus Areas and associated implementation strategies that can enhance a regional and Southern California response.

**Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Funds—\$3.6 million**

Letters of Interest were mailed to hospital CEOs regarding participation in the Hospital Bioterrorism Preparedness Program. To date, 55 of the 81 paramedic receiving hospitals have responded as follows:

Level of Commitment	% of Responding Hospitals
Basic Level	31%
Expanded Level	60%
Declined Participation	9%

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Draft agreements for these 9-1-1 receiving hospitals wanting to participate in the HRSA project are schedule for your Board's approval on the October 29 agenda.

**Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Funds--\$24.6 million**

As part of the planning for smallpox and emerging infectious diseases, the Department is working with County Counsel to review State statutes that define the Health Officer's authority in the event of an emergency or quarantine.

To meet requirements of Focus Area G – Training and Education, the Department convened the first meeting of the community advisory committee on training for public health preparedness for staff and first responders. The Department has included law, fire, community-based agencies, and local cities in this process.

In late September, the Department's Director and Health Officer met with the new CDC Director, Dr. Julie Gerberding, and Congressperson Jane Harmon, to brief them on public health preparedness efforts in the Los Angeles County.

The Department presented a summary of the CDC grant activities to the Emergency Operations Board of Los Angeles City and discussed bioterrorism preparedness and the city's role as a partner. These discussions will be ongoing through the city's involvement on the CDC Bioterrorism Advisory Committee.

As requested, your Board will continue to be provided with monthly updates on these grants and terrorism preparedness activities. The Department continues to work with the CAO to ensure that grant funding is properly obtained and maximized. Please let me know if you have any questions.

TLG:vph  
203:006 and C/R 111:005

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Director, EMS Agency  
Director of Public Health  
Fiscal Management